

FREE POLAND

DEVOTED TO THE PRESENTATION OF THE CAUSE OF A UNITED AND INDEPENDENT
POLAND TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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The Rebuilding of Poland A Study of the Housing Problem

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13. An independent Polish state should be erected which should include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations, which should be assured a free and assured access to the sea, and whose political and economic independence and territorial integrity should be guaranteed by international covenant.—President Wilson, Jan. 8, 1918.

BEATEN on her military front, baffled and handicapped by the anarchy which the Brest Litovk treaties which she made, created in Russia, abandoned by Bulgaria, and with Turkey surveying the situation with a sympathetic eye towards the camp of the Allies, Germany is suing for peace. But once again even though at this time she appears to be in extremes there is no certainty her gesture is one of sincerity. She appears to be willing to adorn herself with sack cloth but she holds away from the degradation of the ashes. Speculation as to her motives are more general than discussions of her honesty. By some it is argued that facing defeat Germany is seeking now to trade for position while there is yet an opportunity to make concessions. Again it is hinted that it is merely an additional peace offensive, one phrased with such care that in the event of a flat rejection by the United States the German people may be stirred anew with the charge that America and the allies are embarked on a war of extermination. Fortunately in this emergency there is absolute confidence not only in the United States but in the allied nations in President Wilson's vision. Already in the German newspapers there are comments that we have grown over critical and that we have ceased to give to their nation any

credit for good intentions. That such a situation prevails it is idle to deny, but for the existence of such a condition the German authorities have themselves to blame. They have attempted to cry peace even while their soldiers were looting and destroying French villages, from which they were retreating, they have made treaties mere scraps of paper, they have used the sacred call for peace merely to advance their belligerent aims. It is not that we lack faith, but that they have exhausted our faith. Germany today is a moral as well as a financial bankrupt. Her balance of credit has been overdrawn at the bar of the world.

CHANCELLOR MAXIMILIAN'S speech promising to the Poles and the people of the Baltic provinces aid in the formation of popular representative bodies for self government comes too late. The Prince in his role of Chancellor may not appreciate it but his Polish promises sound merely as an echo of the earlier magnificent declarations of the two emperors. They promised Polish freedom and civil rights, yes independence to the people, but a German Governor General still sits at the council table in Warsaw and the students of the University are compelled to bow to the decisions of German taskmasters. Polish food is being con-

fiscated in Poland and transported into Germany and 700,000 Polish men and women are slaving as contract laborers behind the lines and in German munition plants. Even the intimation of the Prince that previous treaties will not be allowed to stand in the way of peace by which presumably he means that the partitioning of the Cholm district in Poland will be made null and void will fail of its mark. The Poles need no assistance in forming popular representative governments, they do not need the Germans to till the ground as a preliminary for this resurrection of their political life. Until they see the German soldiers marching beyond the borders of their country, until they see their property restored, they will hold aloof. Germany knows the Poles because she has studied them not always to her advantage, but the German knowledge of the Poles is as a mere incident compared with the knowledge of the Germans possessed by the Polish people. They have had their fill of loud sounding proclamations. They look only for deeds and their gaze is fixed far beyond the confines of Germany, it is fixed on France, and if anything even more completely on the United States and on President Wilson. The celebrations held in Poland on the enunciation of the fourteen conditions of peace which enumerated among other aims the creation of a United and Independent Poland will not have been held in vain.

ONE point must be borne in mind that the President in his note is making an inquiry, and is not answering the German authorities. The distinction is not a mere verbal one, but is an actuality. After a reply has been received to his inquiry, then an answer may be in order but whether the German tenders will ever be formally answered depends entirely on the new communication which may be received. There have been those who have expressed some disappointment that the language was not of a more positive character but it is well for them to remember that language which may seem moderate in an answer is positive and hard biting in an inquiry. It is worth attention that already certain of the leaders in the German press are fearsome that the President has placed the German authorities in an embarrassing and dangerous position to say the least. They fear that in laying her cards upon the table that Germany in this case departed from her time honored practice and failed to retain

the ace. Walter Rathenau, in a special article in the Berlin Vossische Zeitung, says:

"We allowed ourselves to be carried away at an unripe moment into an unripe decision. We shall be asked to abandon Lorraine and perhaps also Alsace. Danzig may be claimed as a Polish port. The restoration of Belgium and northern France may be run into a disguised war indemnity of 50,000,000,000 marks.

"Was that taken into account, Whoever has lost his nerve must be superseded."

TO the Polish immigration in the United States there is one message of importance which must be given at this time. It is that already it has been made plain and in a most positive manner, that future negotiations and all negotiations with the Germans will be founded and can only be continued on the acceptance of the famous fourteen points of peace as laid down by the President on the eighth of last January. There is to be no deviation, no last hour elimination or cancellation of any of the sections of that most important document, and in that document it will be remembered the President set forth that "An independent Polish state should be erected which should include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations, which should be assured a free and secure access to the sea and whose political and economic independence and territorial integrity should be guaranteed by international covenant.

THE work of creating segregated units of non-English speaking Poles in the United States Army is proceeding with dispatch. The men whose physical condition has aroused the admiration of the medical officers, are being salvaged from the kitchens and from menial tasks to which they were assigned, because of the language difficulty, and are being trained in the deportment of fighting men. It has lifted them to a high state of satisfaction, and officers and their fellow American soldiers have been struck with the change which has taken place, once it has been made clear to these men they are to have a chance to strike at the Germans. The military advisability of such a move was first presented to the war department some months ago by the representatives and officers of the National Polish Department. But at that time there were a number of earnest men who felt that by an intensive

educational training, the language difficulty might be overcome. It was not surprising accordingly, that Secretary Baker who as he wrote in a letter to the Polish authorities, felt his task was to raise a distinctly American army, believed these representations, and withheld his approval of the segregation idea. It was not until the number of non-English speaking Poles in the army actually threatened to block the training of the English speaking troops, that a new investigation was made. For the success which has attended this new move a great and considerable amount of credit belongs to Lieut. Gutowski, a young Pole from New England, who early won a commission at Plattsburg,

and who has thrown himself whole heartedly into the work. Cognizant of the American military attitude and equipped also with a knowledge gained through his ability in speaking Polish to interview the Polish soldiers he has been a happy connecting medium. At Camp Gordon and at other camps where there are a considerable number of Poles, he has achieved results which have awakened the admiration of his superiors. In thus aiding to transform the Pole in the American army from a kitchen policeman to a fighting man, he has helped the Polish cause as a whole and in a most substantial manner.

The Rebuilding of Poland

A Study of the Housing Problems

Although because of close German supervision and the German practice of sequestration of materials for German needs the work has been carried on almost surreptitiously, the rebuilding of devastated Poland is already under way. It is naturally of a temporary nature first because of the lack of supplies and money and again because the need of shelters is so pressing and immediate, but various Polish groups working quietly are trying to direct even this work in such a manner that the labor now being employed will be used for at least laying the foundation for a new Poland to be created.

The permanent rebuilding will of necessity have to be an after the war problem because the devastation in Poland has been so wide spread and complete. Hundreds of villages have been actually reduced to heaps of cinders and ashes, roads have been destroyed, the arable fields have been made sterile and even the trees not only along the highways but in larger forest tracts have been cut to the stumps.

Public buildings, bridges, and railways have been destroyed and in that portion of the Kingdom adjoining German Poland the railroads have been remade to link with the German governmental system while the rolling stock has been either confiscated or worn to such a condition as to be useless as an economic instrument in the future.

It must be confessed that the completeness of the destruction of Polish villages and towns was made possible or rather was expedited by the character of the houses and general buildings.

The extraordinary wooded areas in Poland and the natural cheapness of wood has resulted in large wooden house areas. Many of them had thatched roofs, and in other cases shingles were used. In addition the architectural types, picturesque in many ways made the houses an easy prey to the elements. It thus happened that houses that were not destroyed by shell fire were caught by the torches of the advancing and retreating armies, and even those which escaped the direct fire brands were consumed in general conflagrations. The practice of covering the wood construction with plaster served in some cases to save the buildings from incendiary shells but unfortunately this form of protective covering was employed chiefly in the rural districts and not in the more thickly settled communities where it might have been of value as a fire stop agent.

Fortunately today there are men in Poland who out of the misfortunes of the war, hope to build a new Poland which will be a safer and happier country than the Poland of the past. Even before the war because of the extraordinary employment of wood for housing purposes, the towns and villages were subject to

frequently occurring fires, which often laid waste to entire tracts. The economic loss of these fires has long been a subject of serious discussion and the Warsaw Architects Circle had started an agitation for the employment of a better fire resisting material. The activities of this organization attracted attention but unfortunately the members were faced with a situation which allowed them an opportunity to move only where repairs of new building operations were under way.

The complete scarifying of miles of housing territory and the absolute necessity of rebuilding has opened a clear way. Late advices from Poland are to the effect that they are fully aroused as to their opportunity.

Their aims as recently sent forth by Arthur E. Gurney an architect who has practiced his profession for some time in Warsaw and who is a member of various Polish Professional organizations call for the rebuilding of these towns and villages in a more substantial manner. They call for the elimination of the thatched roof, even in farm building construction, not only because of the fire danger though that is naturally more remote, but as a sanitary move. They also want to introduce or rather extend the use of tile and brick construction in city and town dwellings.

In cases where thatched roofs seem inevitable the suggestion has been made that they be covered with a protective clay, which would make them fire resisting. Over the possible employment of cement or concrete blocks for the walls of the building, a considerable dispute has arisen. The Architects Circle ruled that concrete blocks and cement bricks were not satisfactory and that burnt bricks were the best for external walls. The concrete engineers and other interested have entered their protest against the condemnation of concrete and cement, and the dispute is still being waged.

To those of us in the United States who are struggling with a governmental housing problem, it is interesting to note that in the latter part of 1915, when governmental housing was here regarded as a visionary dream, the architects in Poland were already planning a general system of rebuilding by the new Polish state and under strict regulation. True their leaning towards this method of manifestation was made almost obligatory by reason of the size of the task in hand, and the general loss of

property, but their vision was original. Those who have had an opportunity to review the plans as outlined have been struck with the soundness of the scheme and the careful balance which has been established by which state aid will be furnished till the house holder is competent to take up his task, and yet all temptation of lazing will be restrained.

The task of remaking Poland architecturally will not be an easy one and the experts who have taken the matter in hand have every appreciation of the difficulty. As a preliminary will come the necessity of educating the Polish workman to the new system. The building of a home in Poland has been more than a matter of craftsmanship, it has been largely influenced by sentiment. Each man has sought to put into his home something of his own individuality, and as the ability to construct the entire house is almost inherent in each Pole, the work will have to be carried on with tact. The ability of the Polish workman to handle wood, and his confidence in his skill is such that he is likely to lag at the adoption of a new medium. Fortunately the educational work is now going on and when the actual opportunity comes it will not be so strenuous a task.

In addition of course a system of loans will have to be provided, loans which can be made by the new Polish state to the house builder and loans, which the Polish state will be able to raise abroad. Fortunately the peculiar impression created by the declaration of an earlier Russian government, that the new Polish freedom would have to be paid for in part by the Poles assuming part of the Russian war debt, has vanished, and it is hoped that instead, Poland because of its devastation may secure indemnities from Germany which can be applied to this labor.

The work of rebuilding is so monumental, that the people within Poland, and the present Polish exiles throughout the world, have no idea that they can accomplish all that is desired of their own initiative. The situation will call for a large amount of supplies, and for additional directing skill. The American and allied business man will do well to keep these trade opportunities in building materials, in building trim, in fixtures, in heating plants, and in other necessities and luxuries in the house-building line in mind, because an enormous market is developing.

J. C. W.

The Polish Army in Russia

TWELVE months ago at a time when the Russian situation was stirring if not boiling, Ignace J. Paderewski, acting for the Polish National Committee in Paris, and with the consent of the Polish Immigration in the United States, presented a formal plea to the Allied nations and to the United States that the definite steps be taken for the support of the Polish army in Russia. At that time there were three Polish armies in the field operating in sectors widely apart, but yet effective arms, with strict military discipline and pregnant with great military possibilities. Within the Russian army, even then in the process of demobilization, there were hundreds of thousands of the Polish soldiers mobilized at the opening of the war under the banner of the Tzar, who had been unable to compel the translation of the Russian words of freedom for the Poles into actual dismissal and transferal to the Polish Army who were eager to join. It has been estimated, and it is not a picturesque or idle surmise that a minimum of 600,000 Polish soldiers with competent officership was really available for use. The armies were handicapped by lack of supplies and by lack of approval of the Allied powers, but the possibilities were all before it. Unfortunately even at that time, the Russian situation was being viewed through amber glasses. The Allied nations timorous of taking a step which might be construed as attempting to interfere in Russian internal affairs, held off, and the tender of the Polish soldiers was not accepted. The dissipation of the Polish army at once became inevitable. The Army at Odessa was disbanded, the army of Dowber Munisicki made a pact with the Germans, the men then escaping and joining the Czecho Slovak forces, while the third Polish group barred from a return to Poland, made its way into Siberia, and to the northern coast of Russia. In this way a great opportunity was lost.

TODAY after a period of heartbreaking waiting the Poles have again taken on the task of trying to raise an army for the Eastern front, and happily under more for-

tunate omens. Already in Harbin, according to a recent Associated Press dispatch, a force has been rallied, a force which the Associated Press representative declares promises to eclipse the Czecho Slovak forces in size. Meanwhile General Haller, late of the Austrian Army, who led the revolt of the Carpathian Iron Brigade (Polish) of the Austrian army, and who marched from Bukowina to Bessarabia, and then made his way to Paris via Archangel, has issued a new mobilization call and has already established recruiting centers in Moscow and other cities, and is rapidly gathering men to his standard. A force of Polish troops has for some time been on its way to the Murman coast and probably by this time is operating with the Allied forces in that territory. Of these forces General Haller whose bravery and intrepidity and whose Polish loyalty is most beautiful, will be the commander-in-chief, and a sane and reasonable plan of campaign has been outlined. It calls for the mobilization of a fighting force on the eastern edge of the German occupied Polish territory, and the actual engagements with the Germans in the field. Again it must be confessed the Poles are looking expectantly towards the Allies and the United States. There is reason to believe this time the aid will not be withheld. Meanwhile chastened by their past experience, the Poles are taking steps to finance the mobilization of their forces, and at the recent All-Polish convention in Detroit, authorization was given for the raising by special levies of a considerable sum of money with which to support the dispatch of competent organizers into the field, in order to whip this force into shape. The Poles as a matter of military and political necessity have decided to strike on both the eastern as well as the western front, and to strike under the banner first raised by the immortal Kosciusko "For your liberty as well as ours." May success attend their efforts. And through these Polish armies they hope to gain their right to sit with the representatives of other nations at the Peace table.

A CLARION CALL

The soldier in the Polish Army in France is doing his share of fighting for freedom and for the establishment of a world democracy, as General Gourad and the commanding officers in the French line have already born testimony, but in addition these men from the fields of Poland, of South America, and from the farms and shops in the United States, have retained their power of expression.

Captain Maryan Dabrowa of the Polish Army in France, wounded four times and twice decorated for bravery, has recently issued an address to the men of his company in the Polish Army, which is a classic in its turns and forms of expression:

"Wonderful is the power in Poland. The power which was divided amongst three rules is again being united through bullet and fire.

"The Polish Army which was created in France is a confirmation of the symbolic of Michiewicz and Wyspianski.

"From across the ocean the Polish volunteer is returning to the land from which he had been driven because of hunger and torture, to stand together in a brotherly regiment composed of civilized representatives of the world and to cheer towards Pozen, Wrzsn, Cracow and Warsaw.

"Germans, away from Poland! We wish to be our own landlords! Enough of your unsolicited care! Enough tortures and tears you have caused! We will treat ourselves from the wounds and hardships brought about by the Germans, Austrians and Moscowits with the riches that are overflowing Poland.

"Over the Northern ice-floes, Siberia and wide oceans and lands, the Polish people are streaming, to do their share and more on the sisterly land of France, during this moment when the Prussians have gagged the mouth of Poland. They march with arms ready to show the world that Poland will never unite with an everlasting, brutal enemy.

"We are fighting for Poland, therefore we feel that our country exists and that more and more it is being united.

"That we are good soldiers, our proof is in the standards which decorate the tomb of

Napoleon, which were acquired with Polish hands at Somosier. In addition there stands out the words of our Honorable Marshal Foch. Our Army is one of the heavy links which is standing its strain on the fields of Picardy and Flanders.

"As straight as one can be, as free as one can be, stand our men with the Americans, Englishmen, French and Italians on guard for the sake of justice and the freedom of nations. True are these words and in every respect they would meet with the approval of our Knights Jagiello and Sobieski.

"As to the skill and sacrifice of our warriors on the Verdun and Marne fronts, the commanders may rest assured. Our men are not only even with the Germans, but in scientific fighting they are ahead and much more advanced, as was demonstrated by the Polish battalion under General Gourad.

"The morale of this great Polish army is magnificent, reinforced with the feeling which has taken the men from their lucrative positions in America and also from the lands of Brazil, where the soil is rich and fertile. Their determination is to be there where the blood is streaming for the freedom of the nations, and to prove again that Kosciuszko was not a historic remembrance or a national emblem, but the first model and instrument of the Polish soul which is absorbed with things that mean justice and national freedom.

"This internal force compels the Polish soul to appreciate and love its natives who are now standing with us in the lines, more than ever.

"The outrages and political schemes of the Prussians for 150 years have made a very deep impression in the soul of every Pole.

"The dripping poison which has been introduced during the 150 years could not harm the strong soul of the Poles, but it would always tend to leave wounds in a healthy organism which would heal, and help to enthuse them until this day.

"Therefore, be awake!

CAPT. MARYAN DABROWA."

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JAMES C. WHITE Editor

The Detroit Convention and the Newspapers

The opening of the convention was chronicled in the Detroit newspapers at length. The pen pictures drawn by the various newspaper writers are interesting as showing the manner in which Polish aspirations and methods are being treated.

In the *Detroit News* the story was told in part in this fashion:

Out of the land of prison-tainted shadows into the sunlight of hope, wings the white eagle of Poland. It is at the call of a master, a master of patriotic oratory as well as in music—Ignace Paderewski.

The keynote address of the world famous musician at the opening session of the National Polish Congress in Elks' Hall Monday swayed the emotions of the 1,000 delegates representative of America's 4,500,000 Poles as reeds are shaken in the wind. The tall, pale, shaggy-haired, temperamental artist, the seeming incarnation of aloofness, was transformed into the flaming champion of his countrymen as he flung his gage of defiance at those "made in Germany" American patriots who, he said, were trying to interfere in the social and religious life of American Poles. . . .

Except for the enthusiasm that prevailed throughout the address of Paderewski, the proceedings of the first session were marked with soberness, decorum and harmony, giving point to Paderewski's contention that America could look at this first national assemblage of Poles and judge for herself whether or no they were capable of governing themselves. . . .

The meeting began with the singing of the American and the Polish anthems. Then John F. Smulski, chairman of the Polish National department, gave an address outlining the purposes of the convention to assure the Poles in Europe of the determination of the Allies to restore Poland to her ancient freedom and territory and to bid them stand firm against all blandishments of the Teutons. This was followed by the representative to the United States of the provisional Polish government established in Paris.

The great standard of Poland, the white eagle on a field of purple, is everywhere entwined with the Stars and Stripes in the convention hall and in the Polish quarters of the city. The flag has come down from the days before the partition of 1795 when Poland stood for liberty in an age of tyrants.

The convention has sent a message to President Wilson, assuring him of the loyalty of all the Polish people to America. The convention is in receipt of a message from Secretary Lane, of President Wilson's cabinet, assuring the delegates of the Government's sympathy with the new Polish nationalistic aspirations.

The wonderful enthusiasm, the spirit of intense loyalty of the young gathering also impressed the *Detroit Free Press*. Here are the introductory paragraphs of the story in that paper:

"Ready for any and all sacrifices, the Poles are determined, if need be, to spend their last man and their last cent to bring this terrible conflict to a victorious end, with Austria dismembered and at America's feet, for they know that then and then only will freedom and justice prevail."

That was the rallying cry Ignace Jan Paderewski, an artist turned warrior, an esthete transformed into a crusader, his arms upraised in invocation to the God of his oppressed compatriots, the shaggy locks of the virtuoso bristling like the name of an embattled lion, sounded Monday afternoon to 1,000 American Poles, representing the 4,000,000 of their race in the United States, gathered in Elks' temple at the first national Polish convention.

The man who has abandoned his life-work—given up music, fame, comfortable ease—that he might devote his energy and talents to the cause of Polish freedom was chosen to deliver the keynote address of the congress because he, of all Poles, was deemed most deserving of the honor and the one best able to appeal to his own people here and beyond the seas and to the people of America and the Allied nations.

To an Anglo-Saxon, his feelings attuned to a more moderate key, the wild and high indescribable enthusiasm with which the delegates responded to Paderewski's fervent plea for Polish war unity would have been a revelation. The Slav temperament, the blood that ran in the veins of those who saved Europe from the Turk and from the Huns of Attila, was at fever heat.

Interrupted at every pause by rafter-ringing cheers Paderewski had hardly concluded his peroration, demanding the dismemberment of that hodge-podge empire of the Hapsburgs as the only fitting penalty for their crimes against Poland, when the assemblage gave vent to an ovation that lasted fully five minutes.

Monday's session began with the reading of the convention call by John F. Smulski, chairman of the National Citizens' committee.

He outlined the two chief objects of the gathering; first, to weld the American Poles into as compact as possible a force to back American and Allied war aims, and, second, to send to Poland a message affirming confidence in the pledges of the United States and the Allies to hold out for an independent and united Poland.

In the *Detroit Journal* there was also printed a description of interest:

"Poles fear nobody.

"Not even, like Bismarck, do they fear God. Poles love God and respect Him.

"They know but one thing: the war must be won. To that end they are giving their all—they are doing everything in their power to that end. They claim the right and privilege to die under their own flag and to die in their own army."

With such short, snappy sentences, not a word of which was lost by the 1,000 or more patriotic delegates

who attended the first national Polish convention in Elks temple Monday afternoon, Ignace Jan Paderewski, famous pianist, who has laid aside his work as an artist to give his every effort in behalf of his oppressed country, delivered a speech that thrilled his hearers.

It was a tense moment when the great artist concluded and the pent-up enthusiasm of the audience burst out spontaneously in cheer after cheer which lasted for fully five minutes. Paderewski stood on the platform bowing, tears streaming down his cheeks. Around him on every side pandemonium reigned. An aged woman rushed on the stage, threw herself on her knees at the feet of the Polish patriot and kissed his hands rapturously. Again the assembly burst forth in more cheers which continued for several minutes more.

The woman was Mrs. Valeria Linpinska, of Grand Rapids, Mich., honorary president of the Women's Alliance of the Polish National Alliance, whose husband, now dead, was a veteran of the last Polish insurrection in 1863.

The first session of the convention Monday was opened by John Smulski after "The Star-Spangled Banner" and the Polish national anthem had been sung. He first read a telegram from Secretary of the Interior Lane, which brought forth the first demonstration of enthusiasm.

Mr. Smulski then delivered an address of welcome to the delegates, who came from all parts of the United States, saying in part:

"There is also given to us a task which we alone can accomplish, namely, to send from this convention a wave message through the German lines into Poland itself, and into the dismembered portions of Poland occupied by Austrian and German power, a message of cheer, a message of courage, a message of our confidence in the final ending, the victory of the Stars and Stripes and the Allied nations; this message will strengthen our brothers, under the rule of the Central powers, and will spur to continued effort those undaunted Polish deputies who in the German and Austrian parliamentary bodies and in the Polish council of State are waging war against the dark forces of Prussian domination, and warning the Polish people against the alluring but perfidious advances of Austrian and Prussian politicians."

The message of cheer and of admiration which was sent from the convention to the Polish soldiers being tried for treason in Hungary aroused the interest of the newspapers. The *Detroit Journal* devoted over a column to this step on the part of the convention:

An inspiring message of confidence and support to the Poles in Russia and other partitioned portions of Poland was prepared at the second day's session of the First National Polish convention, at the Elks' temple Tuesday.

In substance the message conveys to the Poles of Europe the heartfelt thanks of Poles in the United States for the unabated vigor of the opposition to German plans which they have displayed since the beginning of the war.

Specific mention is made of the magnificent and

patriotic resistance of the Poles in the Polish council of State in Warsaw, and by the Polish deputies in the preliminary bodies of Vienna and Berlin.

With confidence that the message is hardly needed, but as an additional sustaining factor, they are advised that the Poles in America are confidently expecting a continued refusal on the part of those in the home land to note the possibly alluring, but always perfidious attempt of the two emperors to bring about the Polish acceptance of the new solution of the Polish problem, which they are now offering.

Routine business, which included the reports of the committee on credentials, reports of officers, the formation of a permanent organization and election of officers, consumed the greater part of Tuesday morning's session.

Frank Piekarski, of Pittsburgh, was elected permanent chairman. Mr. Piekarski is best known to fame as a great football player. He was with the University of Pennsylvania eleven, playing fullback for a couple of years.

Dr. B. L. Smykowski, of Bridgeport, was elected vice-chairman.

There was general rejoicing when the announcement was made that Roman Dmowski, president of the Polish National committee, had arrived and would address the convention.

In the *Detroit Times* this story was told:

Somewhere in far-off Hungary 114 Polish soldiers—88 officers and 26 men—calmly, bravely await the hour of their execution, sentenced to death for plotting a revolt against the Hungarian government.

In the assembly hall of the Elks' temple, Thursday morning, 1,000 Poles, delegates to the National convention, voiced the admiration of the Polish people of the United States for these soldiers, and said a prayer for the land for which they die.

The Polish soldiers in Hungary, whose death may come at any moment, were captured when Gen. Haller, of the Polish army, led a revolt of Polish Carpathian Iron Brigade soldiers in Hungary. The march started at 6.30 at night. At 10 o'clock the next morning the men had marched 70 miles and defeated two detachments of Austrians.

In the battle on the road to liberty, these 114 officers and men were captured. They were sentenced to death. Gen. Haller led the rest across the mountains, through the Austrian army, to freedom.

Concessions were offered to the sentenced men. If they would agree to a restriction of the suffrage right of the Poles, they could live, said the Hungarians. The Polish soldiers denied the offers. They sent a message broadcast to the world, telling of their willingness to die rather than have Poland crushed in the grasp of militarism.

"We know that our freedom now must mean concessions to the Austrian-Hungarian government," ran the message that thrilled the Allied world. "We do not want anything for ourselves that will bring hardship on our people. We ask that the offers of the Hungarians be refused, that we be allowed to die for the sake of Poland."

The message of admiration that the convention sent was contained in a resolution read before the delegates and passed by a standing vote, Thursday. No cheers

greeted the passage of the resolution. Instead, the thousand Polish people gathered broke into the strains of the Polish national anthem. With one voice they sang, "Poland Is Not Yet Dead."

The resolution, which follows, was sent to Gen. Haller, leader of the revolt, and now in Paris with the Polish mission:

We, the representatives of the Polish immigration in the United States, assembled at the All-Polish convention, desire to mark our appreciation, our pride and our solemn joy at the memorial of the Polish officers interned in Hungary, who within the shadows of the gallows because of their display of Polish nationality have asked that no compromise of Polish freedom be made with the idea of securing even a mitigation of their sentences.

Their message is a magnificent, a pathetic and a historic document. Their revolt against Austria was undertaken as soldiers acquainted with military precedence and with a clear-eyed vision as to the consequences. Their sacrifice is no more emotional happening and the death which will come to them will be far away from the glamour of battle. It is that which makes it even more impressive. Let us hope that we can reach the same heights of courage and devotion.

Long live Poland!

The arrival of Ramon Dmowski was noted by all the newspapers and his speeches were carefully reported. In addition the *Detroit News* carried a special interview with him which is here reprinted:

The protagonist of the struggle for the re-creation of an autonomous Poland, Ramon Dmowski, is not governed by the Slavic emotionalism which has been the glory and the misfortune of Poland. Chary of speech as an English diplomat, slow in movement and deliberate in judgment, Dmowski is the antithesis of Ignace Jan Paderewski, the other outstanding figure at the Polish National convention here.

Dmowski views the conditions under which the new Polish state will be created with the dispassionate eye of the trained European diplomat. You cannot tell Dmowski that the new internationalism has sprung to full maturity in this war, that it will dominate the chancelleries of Europe, the instant peace is declared and make of the world a new brotherhood in the wink of an eye.

Dmowski sees a fair amount of human selfishness still rampant in the world. In Dmowski's opinion there are still rocky paths to be traversed before the new internationalism is established as the governing code at the council table of the nations.

In Dmowski's opinion, cool statescraft, not sentimentalism will decide the fate of Poland. In his eye self-restraint, more than armies with banners, will make for the realization of Poland's dearest hopes.

Until he speaks with Slavic accent, you might mistake Dmowski for an English statesman. As he slowly entered the living room of his hotel suite Thursday afternoon filling an English briar wood pipe, the illusion was heightened. He prefers a pipe to a cigarette. This alone puts Dmowski in a class by him-

self in this convention. But when he began to speak the slow deliberation of his speech still further marked him as a man apart.

"We are now quite sure that the victory of the western nations in this war will give us independence," he said. "Our strongest guarantee, the one that appeals most to our people, is the deep sense of justice that has always characterized America in its dealings with the fate of nations. Thanks to America, victory is now certain for the Allied powers. It is now only a question of bringing the war to a close as speedily as possible. When I left Europe 10 days ago everybody was talking about the splendid American troops, about what first-rate soldiers they were. We of Poland are quite certain that we can rest our cause in no stronger, better hands than those of America."

Discussing the territorial limits of the new Poland, Dmowski declared that Poland could not in reality be free unless the provinces of German Poland, the old province of Poland at the mouth of the Vistula, and the port of Danzig, were given back to her.

The condition of the Jews in Poland, Dmowski declared, was a pressing problem.

"They are so poor, so crowded in," he said. "And then a huge majority of them speak Yiddish, a German dialect. There must be no discrimination on account of race, religion or previous condition of servitude in the new Poland; all the people must be equal before the law. But no German dialect must be officially recognized in the new Poland to open the door to German influence. We have nothing against the use of Hebrew, a noble and beautiful language, but we must discriminate against the Yiddish. There must be but one official language in the new Poland and that is Polish.

Speaking of the Europe after the war, Dmowski predicted that republican forms of government would at least predominate if they did not become universal on the continent that has been the bulwark of kings and monarchical systems.

Almost the first act of the convention was to send a message of grateful homage to President Wilson, almost the last act was to provide machinery for assisting in the new Liberty Loan.

Paderewski's tributes to the President came from his heart and the convention always responded. From John F. Smulski, from Dmowski, from Chairman Pickarski, the mentioning of the President was in an almost reverent manner. As the *Detroit Journal* said:

To President Wilson belongs the credit of having officially characterized the convention in the message which he sent late in the afternoon recognizing the objects of the gathering and expressing his hope for the return of Polish lands to their own people. It is hard to do justice to the reverential enthusiasm which greeted this message from the chief executive of the nation. Spontaneously the audience twice rose to its feet during the reading of the message and the cheers of approval echoed through the surrounding streets.

To Bishop Rhode, of the Roman Catholic Church, must be credited one of the momentous declarations of the convention. Addressing the delegates among whom were Protestants, Catholics, Freethinkers, Jews, Bishop Hodner and members and priests of the Polish National Church, Bishop Rhode announced he simply asked that they all meet as Poles. In the *Detroit News* the incident is recorded in this manner:

"I don't care what your religion is or what your politics is, if you are a Pole you are welcome here."

This declaration of the Rt. Rev. Paul Rhode, the only Roman Catholic Bishop of Polish antecedents in the United States, shows the spirit of the Polish National Congress now in session here.

The convention struck down a semblance of the religious clan spirit embodied in the suggestion of the Rt. Rev. Frank Hodur, of Scranton, Pa., bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church, that all National Church delegates be permitted to sit together. Delegate after delegate opposed this suggestion, declaring it unwise in view of the declaration of Bishop Rhode. It was voted down.

STICKS TO REAL AIM

While at least 80 per cent of the Poles are Roman Catholic and the clerical representation in the assemblage is large, it has not unduly asserted itself. The convention shows a determination not to be swayed from its primary aim, to unite all groups of Polish thought in the United States for a recreation of the free Polish state. The leaders realize that the only hope for the re-creation of an independent Poland lies in the pledges of President Wilson and the Allied convention at Versailles.

In all the sessions, the representatives from Socialistic and National Catholic groups have expressed themselves as freely on all matters of policy as have the delegates representing Catholic institutions and parishes.

At the close of the convention Charles F. Mirick, one of the ablest newspapermen in Detroit in the religious page which he conducts in the *Detroit News* further discussed this matter:

Religion looms large in any plan for the recreation of the independent Polish state, for Poland is perhaps the most religious country in the world. Anyone need only to have seen the large proportion of black-coated clerics among the delegates to the Polish National convention held here the past week to realize the immense influence the church exerts on Polish thought.

In this instance the religious influence is wholly a benign one. The Catholic church has always been too sure of its hold upon the imagination and the hearts of the Polish people to be anything but generous. Ignace Jan Paderewski, a good Catholic, could boast in his opening address to the convention that in the year 1573, the year of most cruel religious oppression in the history of the world, Catholic Poland granted complete freedom of religious confession throughout the confines

of the Polish Republic. Later in the sessions of the convention, the Rt. Rev. Paul Rhode, the first Polish Catholic bishop in the United States, could give forth the declaration that will stand forth in letters of gold in the history of the re-creation of Poland:

"I don't care what your religion is or what your politics are, if you are a Pole you are welcome here."

Throughout the sessions of the convention the past week the Catholic clerics in the convention have stood like a rock against any movement to sway the convention from its primary aims: To unite all groups of Polish thought in the United States for the re-creation of the free Polish state and to encourage our immigrant population to utmost effort for the winning of the war. Throughout the convention the church's representatives have been foremost in burning into the hearts of the delegates the belief that the only hope for the re-creation of an independent Poland lies in the pledges of President Wilson and in the formal declaration of the Allied convention at Versailles.

Ramon Dmowski, president of the Polish National Committee at Paris, quiets any apprehensions that might be entertained by the great Jewish population of Poland with the declaration that in the new Poland there must be no discrimination on account of race or religion, that all the population must be equal before the law.

Looking back on the history of Poland one can only speculate as to the causes for the religious enthusiasm of its people. It may be that the contest with Mohammedanism—when John Sobieski drove the Moslem back from the gates of Vienna and rescued western Europe from the rule of "the sons of the prophet"—intensified the devotion of the Polish masses to their own church. Whatever the reason, it remains a fact that while other people were attracted by different faiths and were affected, to a greater or less degree, by the currents of the Reformation, the Poles remained faithful to their church, for which they were always ready to fight and die.

"The Polish priest is the real friend of his people," says Nevin O. Winter in his "Poland of Today and Yesterday." "He is identified with every phase of the peasant life, and there is no festivity in which he does not take part. He is looked up to as the guide and the guardian by his parishioners.

"In the churches the devotion of the Polish peasant is most noticeable. The men will almost equal the women in numbers, and they seem fully as absorbed in their devotion. Children are early taught the various acts of homage.

"There are many places of pilgrimage which are sacred to the Poles. The most holy of all and the one as sacred to the Polish Catholics as is Kiev to the Orthodox Russian, is Czenstochowa, which is in Russian Poland, and about half way between Warsaw and Cracow. The royal processions on the way from Warsaw to Cracow for the coronation ceremonies used always to stop at this shrine. The modern city is rapidly growing and a number of factories have been established there. There is nothing attractive about it except the scenes of religious devotion."

The convention won the respect and attention of the American people because of the dig-

nity of its proceedings, and the lofty plane of its discussions and aspirations.

It preached loyalty to America, it preached kindness to the Russians, and went on record against the dismemberment of the Russian empire. It prayed and planned for the raising of a Polish Army in the Near East, it sent a message of cheer to the Polish soldiers in Hungary. In short at no time nor at any stage of the gathering, were matters under discussion other than those which properly were of interest to the American people. It was a historic, a wonderful gathering, and through it the Polish immigration in the United States has secured a strong, forceful and authoritative voice with which to sound their cause.

POLISH ARMY BUYS BONDS

The Polish Army in France is buying Liberty Bonds, as well as fighting for liberty and Poland on the fields in France. Out of their scanty wages, the Poles in France, in the Army, recently gathered together \$5,000 and sent it forward to America to purchase Liberty Bonds. Poles from South America, from Poland itself, as well as from the United States, joined in this tribute to the spirit of the United

States, and with their contributions they sent this message:

"To the Poles of America:

"Remember that we are fighting for Poland, but also for all that America stands for. Remember also that there are 200,000 Polish boys fighting with Pershing.

"When you buy Liberty Bonds you are helping to beat the Hun and revenge all atrocities in Poland and Belgium. Buy all the Liberty Bonds you can and then some!

"We are fighting in France so that Belgium, France, Poland and the rest of the world may be free from the oppression of the Hun.

"When we advanced into the Hun trenches we found the bodies of French women mutilated beyond recognition. Our children and women in Poland were treated the same way. You can help! Buy Liberty Bonds and avenge the murder the beastly Kaiser perpetrated.

"Yours for the Fourth Liberty Bond over the top,

POLISH ARMY IN FRANCE."

The Polish soldiers still in training at Canada have also joined the list, and only a few days ago, the last demonstration on the part of a delegation of Polish Army soldiers going abroad was a hat collection on the pier for the purchase of additional bonds.

Polish Issues and Events Viewed Through American Newspaper Eyes

The announcement through the Associated Press that the Poles in Siberia and in Russia were already at work recruiting an army which promises to run into the hundreds of thousands has stirred the American newspapers. The appearance of Polish divisions means that America can save her man power and it also helps to simplify the proposition of maintaining two enormous transport services one on the Atlantic and one on the Pacific ocean. Inasmuch as General Haller and other Polish officers and the members of the Polish national committee at Paris who are directing this mobilization have been scrupulously careful to make plain that this army is being formed to fight Germans and that it will not be used as an instrument of ill will towards the Russians the adventure promises

to be a valuable one and a most happy one for the Allied powers.

The Scranton (Pa.) Times is frank in its declaration that this is good news. It estimates that this army will run to at least 300,000. It can be said that information gleaned from authoritative sources places the figure considerably higher. The same paper says:

The Polish exiles in Siberia are said to be organizing an army of one hundred thousand trained soldiers to fight for the liberation of Russia from the domination of the Kaiser, and, incidentally, for their own liberty and the resuscitation of their national life. This is good news. At the lowest computation there were during the time the Russians were fighting, three hundred thousand Poles in the army of the czar, for the most part brigaded by themselves and commanded by Polish officers. If the organization of the Siberian Poles succeeds, the Czecho-Slovaks army, which is strung across Russia, from Harbin to Moscow, will receive automatically a reinforcement which should

change their position from a precarious strategical situation to one which may quickly subjugate the Soviet tyranny by force of arms. While Czecho-Slovaks and Poles are ethnically sprung from the same Slavic stock, as conditions present themselves today in Russia, the Poles have a much more intimate affinity to the Russians than the Czecho-Slovaks have or can have. The Poles of Siberia are a constituent part of the Russian army, or at least they were so while it existed. It is reasonable to assume that if Siberian Poles are armed and equipped as they should be, and as they can be, that they will attract to their standard not alone the Poles, who are scattered throughout Great Russia and Little Russia to the extent of their numerical strength, but that they may influence the demobilized Russians to remobilize.

The significance of this move is not under estimated. The Buffalo (N. Y.) *Courier* points out that the recognition of the Czecho-Slovak nationality came because of the activities of its army at a critical time and it agrees that similar rewards are likely to follow this new move:

Behind this effort is a plan, which parallels the Czecho-Slovak movement, for recognition of Polish national independence, along the same lines as those followed by the Czechs.

It was determined and effective work of the Czecho-Slovak troops in fighting the Bolshevik-Germans which won for their national aspirations the support of recognition by this country, England, France and Italy.

Actual participation on the Allied side has begun by the brave little Polish army in France. If to this is added an important Polish army in Siberia, the recognition desired may well be given.

The Lowell (Mass.) *Sun* also points out that this is one of the most effective moves towards the Independence of Poland, the overthrow of the Bolsheviks and the redemption of Russia. The ultimate aim of this army of course is the independence of Poland, which is at present under German dictatorship, the proposed freedom offered by Germany being only the merest sham.

There is an opportunity in this Russian movement for the Poles of this country to strike a blow for the freedom of their native land. Few countries have made a more heroic struggle for liberty than did Poland, but unfortunately, many of her sons who enjoy the freedom of this nation, forget that the land of their nativity is still enslaved, although it has never in recent times been face to face with a better opportunity of achieving its freedom.

The men of Poland should be proud to assist in securing the independence of their country so that she may take her place among the nations of the earth, free and independent, after the bondage under three imperial governments dating back to the partition of the kingdom in 1792. A free Poland would indeed be a most inspiring outcome of the movement now gaining momentum in Russia with the primary object of re-

lieving the Russian empire of the curse of German control.

One pathetic note which is struck time and time again in the newspapers is the admission of surprise that the total number of Poles on the Eastern front is sufficient to sustain so elaborate a move. This thought appears in an editorial in the Rochester (N. Y.) *Post Express*.

It will come as a surprise to many followers of war news that there are Poles in Siberia in number sufficient to form an army estimated at 100,000; the will to form such an army in aid of the Allies in their intervention against Germany's invasion and influence will be less surprising. There is in sight the upbuilding of a military strength in Siberia to which the Russians of the West may rally in effort to unseat the soviet government, as it is allied to Germany, and which promises efficient co-operation with any moves the Allied forces in the North may make. The outstanding fact, aside from the direct military strengthening of anti-German forces in Siberia, is that Germany's control of the Poles as well as of the Czechs and Slovenes is challenged by this move. Germany and Austria have the land of these peoples but the peoples they have not in subjection, nor will they have, while actual armies of these races fight against them and active forces at work to win allegiance of the entire peoples to freedom from virtual serfdom.

The mobilization of these racial armies as certain newspapers have pointed out have a political as well as a military effect. They serve to stir the Russians to fresh resistance to the Germans and they also stir other races which in discouragement have given over to new efforts. This phase of the move has been touched upon by the New York *American*.

It is believed if the Polish organization is successful the Ukrainians will begin a similar movement. Because of the close relationship between the Magyars and the Poles it is considered possible that many of the Magyars may be won over to the side of the Entente Allies.

The Poles are emphatic in declaring that they do not intend to participate in politics and that their only desire is to fight toward their own country.

The Poles have asked that they be promptly granted recognition by the United States Government, so that they may add their aid in opposing the spread of German aggression as well as win their own freedom.

Entente Allied Officials here see three benefits to be derived from the encouragement of the Poles.

First, they say it would obviate the necessity of moving additional troops across the Pacific; second, the Allied forces now in Siberia could be moved westward to strengthen the Murman coast expedition, ultimately bringing pressure to bear on the Western front; third, that an army composed of Czecho-Slavs, Poles and Ukrainians would galvanize the Russians in action.

HER SACRIFICE—WHAT IS YOURS?

A Polish mother who speaks only in broken English is today mourning the loss of her oldest son in France where he died to help make nations free. Two other sons have already registered for service and two others, one of fourteen and one of twelve years, are whimpering at her apron begging permission to go to war.

Here is her story as told in the St. Paul Minn. Dispatch. This is her sacrifice. Can those who have been asked to purchase Liberty Bonds and who have refused because it might mean the giving up of some luxury read this crude little report without feeling ashamed?

"Less than a month ago a soldier, Private John Romocky, U. S. Infantry, with but only twenty-three happy years behind him, gave up his life on a battlefield of France. Wounds sustained in action brought to an end the life of a good boy—the pride of a mother.

"Today grief eats at the heart of that boy's mother. She does not weep; she does not wail, but like the still waters that run deep, beneath the unmoved surface the current moves, and it is the current of sadness and despair.

"She does not weep because from first to last her life has been a sad one and a struggle. In Poland her native land it was a struggle against tyranny; here it was a fight to keep a growing family clothed and fed.

"Five boys and four girls this mother gave to civilization. The oldest boy went to war when the land of his mother's adoption beckoned, and now he is dead.

"'I cry for him here,' she said, and she beat upon her breast, 'but he don't come back. John was a good boy; he helped me. Now I never see him again.'"

"Then her heavily lined face brightened.

"'I got more boys. Two of them they register. And two more—one's 14 and the other 12—they want to go. I laugh at them, and tell them may be some day when they get big men I let them. I let them all go. I'm not afraid. I'm proud.'"

"This mother has sacrificed one son, who might have sustained her in her declining years, but she is ready to sacrifice her other boys. The future has no terrors for her. Knowing what oppression is, she believes in the struggle for which she so cheerfully gives."

Can you say as much? Can you say to Mrs. Romocky:

"I have lent my money to the country, be-

cause without money the war cannot be won. I am going without the things I need and want because it is little enough that I can do. You gave your son. As you say, he won't come back. The least I could do is loan my money which will return to me."

Can you say this to Mrs. Romocky, and, saying it, know that you have nothing of which to be ashamed? Let your conscience be your judge.

POLISH CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

The First Convention of the Polish Elements in the United States Held in the City of Detroit, Michigan, During the Period From the 26th to the 30th of August, 1918, and Composed of 948 Delegates, Men and Women Lawfully Elected, Solemnly Adopted These Declarations and Resolutions.

"To the Government of the United States, which has received us so hospitably, we pledge loyalty, fealty and obedience. Our active and hearty participations in the phases, political, social and spiritual of the civil life of this country we regard not only a privilege but an obligation. And to the Poles who are serving with the military forces of the United States and in the great industrial armies all intimately connected with war activities we desire to send a message of particular approbation and encouragement.

"To President Woodrow Wilson we render homage of esteem, gratitude and our unshaken hope.

"Our obligations to this great nation allow of no reservation. We stand ready to make any sacrifice attending the performance of our duty. The adoption of the cause of Poland by the President and by the American people has imposed on all of Polish birth or blood an obligation to assist in sustaining the declarations of the President and the Allied governments.

"We would indeed be unworthy of this our adopted country if we remained indifferent to Poland's misfortunes.

"In this war there are certain tasks which we alone can encompass in order to hasten the enduring and stable peace so desired, particularly the sustaining of the Poles abroad. We have also the task of preserving a complete understanding of American aims

in America. We have unanimously resolved and pledge ourselves without delay to create a fund, which shall be applied to the needs of the Polish nation, the needs of our immigration and of the Polish army in France. We have here agreed to raise this by a voluntary levy upon those of Polish birth and blood.

"The unifying and cementing of all our forces in answering support of American war aims and thus for Poland is an urgent necessity. We have now created an organization and adopted a constitution based upon strictly democratic principles which assures to all Poles an opportunity for active participation in the work and a strict control over affairs and funds.

"In this great task substantial progress can be recorded. The several groups and spheres of Polish thought have been welded into a fortified and harmonious union.

"In all this work; in the forwarding and execution of plans for war relief and relief for famine-stricken Poland; in establishing the closest co-operation with the Government at Washington and with the American nation in this war waged for the purpose of crushing German power which menaces mankind; in the struggle for the never surrendered rights of the Polish nation; Ignace J. Paderewski has for four years been our tireless leader, for whom we shall always cherish the finest attachment and most grateful resemblances.

"The goal, the desire, and the aim of every Pole has always been, is at this time, and shall ever be, the redemption of all Polish territory, including Gdansk (Danzig) the natural and ancient harbor of Poland, and the reconstitution of a unified, and independent Republic of Poland. In our labors to attain this goal we shall not shrink from any sacrifice of heart, wealth, nor life.

"Poland desires liberty, and must have it. Poland desires liberty not only for herself, but for all oppressed nations. Poland desires liberty and consolidation for the Czechs and Slovaks, for the Jugoslavs, for wronged Roumania, for Poland's sister—Lithuania—with whom Poland will live in harmony and love.

"True to her national spirit, and the traditions of her past, Poland, on regaining her own liberty, will never oppress her own inhabitants.

"Equal rights will be guaranteed to all citizens of Poland, regardless of race, religion, or political views.

"To heroic France, who, from the outbreak of the world war, had advocated liberty for Poland, and who upon change of conditions in Russia, promptly declared for independence of Poland, and through the creation of an autonomous Polish army gave Poland a weapon for the defense of her rights, our thanks are due. To Great Britain, Italy, to all Allies, and to our neighboring Southern Republic of Brazil, we express our gratitude, with the solemn assurance that we shall perform our duty as their ally in this war.

"We pay homage to the Polish army in France, which is battling for the liberty of Poland. Confident in our own strength, we assure wounded and sick soldiers of care and assistance worthy of the Polish Immigration in America.

"Our rightful thanks go out to the Rt. Rev. Bishop Paul Rhode for rallying the Polish clergy to the assistance of our people to a better understanding of our national needs and for the example of sincere loyalty to the United States.

"We express our appreciation of the work of the National Polish Department, which has been directing the affairs of the Polish element, and we entrust it with the direction of our work in the future.

"Firmly convinced that all organizations and all individuals conscious of a spiritual union with us, will march with us, we appeal from the depth of our heart to all Poles to unite in harmonious work, and to be ready for the great sacrifices and great deeds for the glory of our Mother Country, and the glory of America.

POLES FIGHT HUNS

By FRANK J. TAYLOR

United Press Staff Correspondent

An American Hospital in France, Sept. 28—How the Polish troops from America helped stop and turn back the Hun tide that attempted to sweep around Rheims in the first days of the last German offensive was told today by Stanley Zalesny, who is almost recuperated from wounds he received in the fighting.

Stanley Zalesny is a Cleveland boy by adoption. He went from Poland to Cleveland to be free from German kultur, and studied in the Cleveland schools. He is a clean-cut robust American boy now, with a slightly Polish accent, and wearing the uniform of the Polish Army to which he volunteered.

"We were near Suippes, east of Rheims," he said, "just before the offensive, we found Americans were

on our left, and we were lad. We wanted to fight alongside of them. Our outfit was made up to a large extent of Polish from America and England. So we were English-speaking, though we had a French General commanding us. He had two Russian Polish Generals under him.

"When the Germans came over there were lots of them, and the artillery was heavy. We knew the Americans would hold them on the left, and the French on the right, so we shoved them back, and went over after them. I was with the first Polish troops to get to the German trenches.

"Then I was sent out on a patrol with seven others of my company. We got into a pretty hot place, and it was bad. Six of them were killed, and only two of us got back. We were taken to the American hospital and cared for by the Americans, and were glad to get back with our own Americans. I am having the time of my life, and feel fine now. You see how well we are getting."

Young Zalesny speaks Russian and some German in addition to Polish and "American." He says that most of his comrades speak Russian, too. They are hoping to get to the Russian front now, he says, because they believe they could do more good, not only fighting, but by the influence they might have among the Russians and Poles who could be shown that the German must be conquered.

The Polish Army is interesting, especially to the Americans who encounter these rugged chaps in French blue uniform with distinctive square-topped hats, and an abundant vocabulary of standard American slang. Their devotion, bravery and high morale excites praise everywhere.

POLAND'S FATE WARNS ALLIES

Paris.—A grave warning has been issued by a prominent Polish patriot in Paris against one phase of the German peace offensive—the secrecy the Huns have thrown around true conditions among the Central European Slavs.

The warning is that the Allies, in their zeal to make Germany restore Belgium, Northern France, Alsace-Lorraine and Serbia, must not allow the Huns to blind them on Central European issues.

"I fear," he says, "peoples of the Allied countries do not understand the relation between their own future safety and the aspirations of the oppressed Slavish nations.

"They must understand. Or they will live to rue it—in two or three generations. They will find then, if Germany now is to have her way in those central countries, a Germany twice as large in territory, in population, in wealth, in resources."

It is pointed out that the Huns are keeping a sealed curtain over events in Central Europe. But according to eyewitnesses who have smuggled their information into France, this is the situation in Poland:

Three million persons killed.

Half a million in German captivity.

Three-quarters of a million permanently crippled on the battlefield.

Sixty thousand political leaders executed.

A reduction in wealth of one-third.

Machinery worth \$40,000,000 confiscated and taken to Germany.

All loose metal in the country confiscated.

Mines and oil wells robbed.

Three-quarters of Poland's forests destroyed.

To all of which the Polish patriot says is this contrast: "The numerical strength of the German element and the power of the few rich and selfish cosmopolitan parasites who have never had anything in common with the people's desires, and who always work together with the stronger, have increased with the aid of German rope and bayonet!"

And in Bohemia and other central Slavic countries the situation is said to be similar to the plight of Poland.

"If all this be true," says the Pole, "then the Huns could well afford to give up, for the time being, the world ambition, and to rectify even the wrongs done in Western Europe in exchange for the opportunity to keep what they held before the war."

A warning is given against allowing Germany to make a peace that does not include restoration of Poland and neighboring countries and their independence.

THE PITTSBURGH LEADER

The *Pittsburgh Leader* is one of the Honor Roll American newspapers because of its sympathetic attitude towards Polish aspirations. The following editorial is only typical of many which have been printed in its columns:

The large proportion of Polish names in the casualty lists constitutes in itself a claim for the freedom of Poland and the Poles. How strange it sounds to read the names of Gutowski, Starzynski, Domerski, Kamienski, Glowacki, Robaczewski, Osmalinski, Drajewski, Godewski, Karaszewicz and many others as Americans in the lists of killed and wounded. It is not strange when Polish love of liberty is taken into account. Their names may lack American spelling and American ring, but their service, their heroism, their deaths, are as genuinely American as that of the Yankee with the longest line of native ancestry. They died for America, the freedom to which America is dedicated, and for which America threw herself into the struggle for civilization.

Shall America give some grateful return to the Polish knights of liberty by standing squarely for an autonomous Poland, a free land of free people? It would be a poetic return. Gutowski and Starzynski went to the front to their deaths from homes in Pittsburgh—the others came from all parts of the United States. The wish of the Poles for freedom is one of the tragedies of European politics. The right of the brave people for liberty has at last, after weary waiting, been acknowledged by the world.

Shall that national freedom for which every Pole in ages has prayed, for which the soul of every Pole yearned, for which heroic Polish lives have perished in vain in the past, be the fitting reward for the deaths of the Poles who died fighting for freedom under the banner of the free land they loved—America? The consummation would not be merely poetic fraternal recognition, but assistance in an act of justice from America which would disarm the Prussian slander-mongering directed against Poland and America.

We should be honoring ourselves in honoring the brave Poles who have died under the folds of our flag in a foreign land, battling for the freedom the very principle of which the Pole worships.

